

Atty Docket No. JCLA6623

Serial No. 09/849,457

REMARKS**Present Status of the Application**

The Office Action rejected claims 22 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. The Office Action also rejected claims 14-16, 21 and 23-30 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), as being anticipated by Kobayashi et al. (U.S. 2002/0033664) in view of Matsuura et al.(US Patent 6,157,186) Applicants have amended the specification to improve clarity. In addition, Applicants have amended claims 14, 24, 26, 27 and 30. After entry of the foregoing amendments, claims 14-16, 21 and 23-30 remain pending in the present application, and reconsideration of those claims is respectfully requested.

In re claims 14-16, 21 and 23-30, Applicants consider that "recess region" is not disclosed by neither Kobayashi nor Matsuura. Therefore, Applicants consider that claims 14-16, 21 and 23-30 should be allowed.

For at least the foregoing reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that independent claim 14 patently define over the prior art references, and should be allowed. For at least the same reasons, dependent claims 15, 16, 21 and 23-30 patently define over the prior art as well.

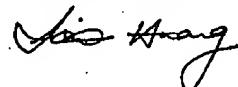
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CONCLUSION

For at least the foregoing reasons, it is believed that the pending claims 14-16, 21 and 23-30 are in proper condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes that a telephone conference would expedite the examination of the above-identified patent application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,
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